

Hellish "Kultur Courses" for American Prisoners

THE field of atrocities—where Germany holds undisputed sway—has been extended to include such hated Americans as have been taken prisoner. In spite of the letters coming to America from inmates in German camps, who without exception insist that they are well fed and well treated, information is filtering through that the pictures painted by these prisoners, perhaps under compulsion, are far from true.

Indeed, for fiendish cruelty, the Hun, according to reports, is quite out-hunning himself in his treatment of prisoners—especially American, British and Czech-Slovak. The devilish tortures inflicted on prisoners may possibly be part of a well-defined plan of German military commanders to give the Central Powers a club to hold in the German-American conference on the exchange and treatment of prisoners, which is to convene at Berne, Switzerland, on September 23.

Referring to the American commission to this conference, "The Memphis Commercial Appeal" writes:

"The personnel of the commission has been completed, and is a strong body of men, headed by John W. Garrett. Out of this conference it is hoped will come better conditions for those of our men unfortunate enough to be captured by the enemy. Certainly a tremendous effort will be made to put things on a more humane footing."

But, according to information reaching "The Indianapolis News," there is a strong sentiment in Germany against the exchange of American prisoners. The "Yanks" really ought to be continued in the courses in Kultur in which they have been involuntarily enrolled! From this paper the following is quoted:

"A Bremen newspaper thinks that it would be unfortunate for the American prisoners in Germany if they were exchanged. In the first place, they are now working for the Fatherland, which, of course, is, from the German point of view, the highest service they could render to civilization. There is, it seems, for them, sufficient employment on the eastern labor market and in our agricultural enterprises behind the front. But the prisoners are getting a valuable compensation for their labor. 'It will,' says the Bremen paper, 'to the Americans a powerful lot of good to acquaint themselves with Kultur from the fountain-head.'"

"We have no doubt that Kultur is found in its highest flower in the German prison camps, mines and forests where prisoners are forced to work. But, after all, it is not necessary to be a prisoner in Germany to learn what German Kultur is. The men in our armies are already familiar with it. They have seen hospitals bombarded and the Red Cross fired on. Also they have seen German machine gunners seeking protection behind the Red Cross emblem."

"Every day the evidences of German Kultur are forced on them. Looted homes, outraged women, mangled children, starving old men and women, devastated towns and countryside, all have testified to German Kultur. If there is anything in the world more hateful and odious we do not know what it is."

"For our unfortunate soldiers who have fallen into the hands of fiends there will be in this country the most heartfelt sympathy. But there will also be a realization of the fact that the only way to bring about their release is through the defeat of the German armies. Here surely is a motive for the speediest possible pressing of every advantage. Those who are thinking of a peace that does not bring with it the severest punishment for all who have been guilty of mistreating prisoners, and the destruction of the government and system responsible for it, are the enemies of their country and the foes of civilization."

A New System Was Put in Operation

What these courses in Kultur consist of is vividly described in a special cable dispatch to "The New York World" from Oldenzaal, on the German-Dutch frontier. "The World" correspondent there relates the following as told him by Anton Schwartzlegh, a sergeant attached to the Pomeranian Infantry Regiment 74, who deserted to Holland:

"Our authorities, evidently acting on instructions from headquarters, decided to outdo their own record of cruelty toward American prisoners. A system newly devised was carefully worked out under the watchword 'The fewer Americans who return home the better for us.' Now in operation, it is permitted to go on there is no telling how many Americans taken prisoner will ever be allowed to see America again. Surely, very few."

"After seeing a good deal of service in France and Russia, in France again, where

I was wounded, I was sent to a camp at Wittenberg to guard prisoners. Later I was moved to Soltan, thence to Holzminden, where I managed to escape. What I saw in the camps was worse than what I saw at the front, ever since we began taking American prisoners."

"Special instructions were given to the guards in charge of the Americans to apply so-called 'sharp regime,' meaning to treat them worse than Russians, Belgians and Italians, all of whom enjoy the sinister privilege of being bullied in a manner worse than either the French or English."

"Additional camps were erected at Wittenberg, Soltan and Holzminden. Near the former ones is the reprisal camp, Kuestrin, which was supposed to have been suppressed, but which is going as strong as ever and was considerably enlarged, the reason being that it was intended to send Americans to a reprisal camp straight from the battlefield, before they had a chance of committing the least offence. This the Germans call 'preventive punishment,' and is supposed to be what Americans need. One of my superiors told me explicitly: 'We must teach these Americans something.'"

"In Kuestrin, where I often went on duty because I speak English, having lived five years in Norfolk, Va., prisoners were submitted to hellish treatment, seventy having to sleep in huts hardly fit for ten, on dirty boards, without mattresses or covers, except in the case of those who could bribe the sentries."

"The food consisted chiefly of a dirty plate of hotish soup, which the men had to fetch from the canteen at noon. The bread ration was small and was missing three times weekly."

"Complaining on the part of Americans was met by requiring them to remain mo-

If That Is True—



—New York Evening World

tionless in the sun for three hours. Each movement meant fifteen minutes more of this torture. Any remarks about the food were met with such retorts as: 'You want our German bread, eh? Ask Wilson for some; he ought to help you.'

"The conditions of labor at Kuestrin were terrific—eighteen to twenty hours daily. The men were forced to repair roads under the scorching sun, under guard of sentries instructed to shoot any one on sight if only suspected of wishing to run away or to sit down to rest. When soldiers collapsed owing to weakness guards would threaten to crush their skulls with a rifle butt or to shoot them. Three colored soldiers died at Kuestrin in June of weakness."

"The Kuestrin commander found two devices to make the Americans miserable. He forbade the men to speak to each other except on camp duty, punishing infractions by twenty days' confinement in a cell. He prohibited the men taking baths in a small brook inside the camp grounds, and bathing was allowed only as a special favor. Any soldier seen bathing without written permission was liable to be shot."

"Two or three younger officers seem to have made it a business to drive American soldiers crazy. Not only do they insult them vilely whenever addressing them, but they inflict extravagant punishments, such as forcing them to fill a dried pond within two hours, using only a water glass. The man thus punished has to run from a faucet to the pond, back and forth, continually for hours on his impossible errand. In cases where the pond is not filled the man gets one month's solitary confinement. This is only one punishment out of hundreds devised either to kill Americans 'spies' or to drive them to despair or to some sort of revolt which would allow

the officers to shoot them down in self-defence."

"American negroes are really worse off than the white prisoners. The German sentries authorize and inflict floggings upon them for the least reason, or without reason. Two negroes, absolutely innocent, were thrashed almost to death in the presence of their comrades, when the proceedings were interrupted by another negro, who boxed the sentry's ears. He is now to be court-martialed."

"Those Americans who are not bullied or who are 'spared' on account of German ancestry are used in the German propaganda service in Russia. It has often happened that your soldiers or under officers have been taken to Russia either handcuffed like murderers or in cages like wild animals—this is the absolute truth—following a German officer lecturing for the benefit of the Russians on 'Germany's Victory Over America.' As proof of that victory an American soldier chained on a platform was exhibited."

A Small Matter—Just a Little Liquid Fire

Through an Associated Press dispatch from London word has come of the spraying of British prisoners last March with liquid fire. Scotch soldiers have made affidavit to the following atrocities:

A private of the Royal Highlanders tells how he and a number of comrades, consisting of one officer and fifteen men, ten of whom were wounded, were compelled to surrender near Monchy on March 28. They were lined up in the original front line trench, and after some time a German officer and two men appeared. One of the men, under orders of the officer, turned a stream of liquid fire straight down the trench in which the Britishers were standing, and, notwithstanding the fact that they were unarmed, continued to spray them for six or seven minutes. The private testified that he and a few of his companions who were able to move scrambled down a communication trench and got over the top and back into the British lines."

Another private testified that he and other prisoners were marched down a trench to an emplacement about 6 feet deep, 9 feet wide and from 9 to 12 feet long, and, while tightly packed in the enclosure, two Germans, one of whom carried a revolver and seemed to be an officer, appeared. The other man had a cylinder on his back, and attached to it was a flexible pipe.

"Just as he reached the entrance to the enclosure," said the soldier, referring to the man with the cylinder on his back, "a flame sprouted out in a stream from the pipe, and caught the men who were nearest to the entrance. The other men lay in heaps around and partly on me. I heard a hissing sound for a short time. Then it stopped, but started again. During this time the men were shrieking and writhing. The flame reached right back to where I was. My overcoat and tunic caught fire. By this time all the men were on the ground."

Add to this the report that Czech-Slovak prisoners are to be treated as traitors and shot because their right to nationality is not recognized, and the picture seems fairly complete.

The Kaiser Sheds Some More Crocodile Tears

LET the 'galled jade wince.' That is the way "The Philadelphia Inquirer" feels about the spectacle of the

Kaiser shedding crocodile tears over the bombing of Frankfurt by Allied airmen. Referring to the sympathetic telegram sent by the Emperor to the Burgomaster of Frankfurt, that newspaper points out:

"And yet, even while the contents of this hypocritical dispatch were being conveyed to the credulous people the German bombing squadrons were dropping shells upon non-combatants in French cities."

"A fine creature, this, to prate about 'international law'! Is there any other man in the civilized world to-day who has done so much to destroy and discredit international law as the ruler who agreed that the treaty with Belgium was a mere scrap of paper, as the man who ordered the sinking of the Lusitania and the murder of innocent women and children; as the man who tolerated the

execution of Nurse Edith Cavell; as the man who has permitted the bombing of hospital ships?"

"The trouble is that the Kaiser and the people of Germany are getting a dose of their own medicine. It was all right for the Germans to attempt to spread death and consternation in French and English cities, but when the Allies retaliate, the impossible Kaiser, who has broken all of the laws that most men hold sacred, begins to rant about the 'unlawfulness' of the business."

"The Baltimore Sun" thinks that—

"But one of two inferences can be drawn from this telegram—either that the Emperor is a fool, or that he thinks the German people are fools. The Emperor is not a fool in the ordinary sense, and he knows perfectly well that he has long ago cut the throat of international law, that he has no more right to protest against its violation than a red-handed and defiant murderer has against violent methods of subduing him. But he seems to believe the German

people are fools enough to swallow everything he tells them."

"Perhaps they still are. But after a while they may begin to realize that the responsibility for their sufferings lies with their pious ruler."

But while the Kaiser "squeals like a pig under a gate over the recent bombardings on German cities," as "The New York Globe" puts it, nevertheless—

"On the All-Highest rests the blood guilt, for he forced his adversaries to resort to reprisals as the only means of self-defence. For nearly four years the governments of the Allies, without retorting in kind, permitted the German barbarity to continue."

The same newspaper thinks such retaliatory raids should have been instituted four years ago, because—

"The Kaiser would have squealed in 1914 as readily as he squeals in 1918. As he now is being brought to a state of mind wherein he will offer to desist, so he could have been brought four years ago. The sentimentalists who shrink from doing that

which the situation plainly demanded have at their door blame for a large part of the atrocities. Germany, deaf to other appeals, is influenceable by fear."

To compare the Kaiser with Attila is a defamation of Attila's character, declares "The New York Times," which further observes:

"It is not international law that the Kaiser is concerned about in his whine to the Burgomaster of Frankfurt. The destroyer of cathedrals, works of art, monuments and ancient relics, who thanked God in interviews dictated to Karl Rosner that the fair Fatherland has been spared the horrors of war, is fearful for the treasures of Frankfurt, the Römerberg market place, the Gutenberg monument, the Kaiserplatz, the Goethe and Schiller statues, the Cathedral of St. Bartholomew, the Nikolaikirche, built in the thirteenth century; the Kaisersaal, the house in which Goethe was born, the picture gallery of the Stadel Institute, and many other treasures not to be touched by

vandal hands. The Kaiser can regard devastated Belgium and despoiled France with equanimity, but let bombs be dropped upon historic Frankfurt and he stands aghast at the enemy's wanton disregard of international law."

Not even the generally misinformed people of Germany will be convinced by their Emperor's "disgusting plaint," in the opinion of "The New York Evening Post," which adds:

"Civilized people hoped that the Allies might be able to refrain from meeting frightfulness with frightfulness. But it has become evident that Germans will understand no language but German."

Distasteful though such retaliation may be, "The Charlotte Observer" is convinced the Germans have it coming to them:

"The war is now being brought home to Germany in earnest, and we could want no better news than that of raids still further into German territory, to the converting of these treasured German towns into the same sort of ruins that have dotted France. The Germans have courted a dose of frightfulness—and they are getting it."

Over the Bargain Counter at the King-Making Plant

TWO elements of opinion appear over the editorial horizon for expression at the bartering for Poland. One is a laughter at kings and the anachronism of the spectacle of trading a land and a people away. The other is concerned with Poland itself, its history and tradition and the saving of its valuable authentic qualities to world civilization by autonomy. Poland is an integral part of the European civilization, with a deep rooted atmosphere and tradition. It is recognized that without satisfaction for Polish yearnings and aspirations to achieve a permanent quality of life and continuation in history there can be no guarantee of peace in Europe.

The laughter is vented thus by "The Detroit Journal":

"The Kaiser and Emperor Charles have done a little trading. For the loan of fifteen divisions of Austrians and Hungarians the Kaiser relinquishes claims upon commanding the destiny of Poland. An Austrian grand duke instead of a German prince will direct the Poles how they shall fetch and carry."

"Marvellous the way of kings! By a few hours of haggling and hickering, Bruiser Bill obtains a number of thousands of lives to pour into that hell in France. By holding back and appearing to be uninterested, the house of Hapsburg gets a throne for one of its brood of parasites. A happy lot, that of kings! Happy, too, must be the Germans who see peace postponed a season, and the Austrians, seeing their sons go to fertilize the fields of distant lands."

"God speed the day when kings, their pomp and circumstance a memory, shall do their bartering over the edges of a push-cart!"

"The New York World," in much the same mood, observes:

"Because Germany never fails to exact her price for a seeming concession, it is guessed that she has bargained for Austro-Hungarian help on the Western front in return for the empty honor of an Austrian King of Poland. That the 'Austrian solution' of the Polish problem' has been conceded is stated by the Berlin 'Lokal-Anzeiger,' often used for official statements. Archduke Karl Stephan is named as the probable monarch."

"Great armies of Austro-Hungarians in France might seem a present help to Berlin in time of trouble. The concession to the stupid autocracy of Vienna in return costs nothing, and is worth nothing. But what will the people of the Dual Monarchy say to this proposal that they shall still shed their blood on the fields of France, still

face hopeless starvation, for a cruel dynasty, and still endure beggary, individual and national, in the vain chase of another phantom honor?"

"The Bourbons have learned nothing and forgotten nothing." Metternich's pupils are as devoid of political sense as they are of compassion for the 'common herd.' Let them set up their King of Folly! Metley be his royal robes—but dyed in crimson!"

The New York Tribune remembers that at "Brest-Litovsk Czernin and von Kühlmann swore adherence to the principle of 'self-determination' by the peoples detached from the former Russian Empire. This is the 'self-determination'

offered Poland—to be traded to the Austrian crown in exchange for 'ten or fifteen divisions.'" The Tribune adds:

"Poland will never be Austrian. She will never be German. The unconquerable race instinct of the Polish people has defied all attempts at assimilation, whether by Austrian, German or Russian conquerors. The argument of the Polish nation cannot be gambled away at German Grand Headquarters. Poland will arise out of this war a reunited and regenerated state, cured of the follies of her glorious past by a long discipline of servitude."

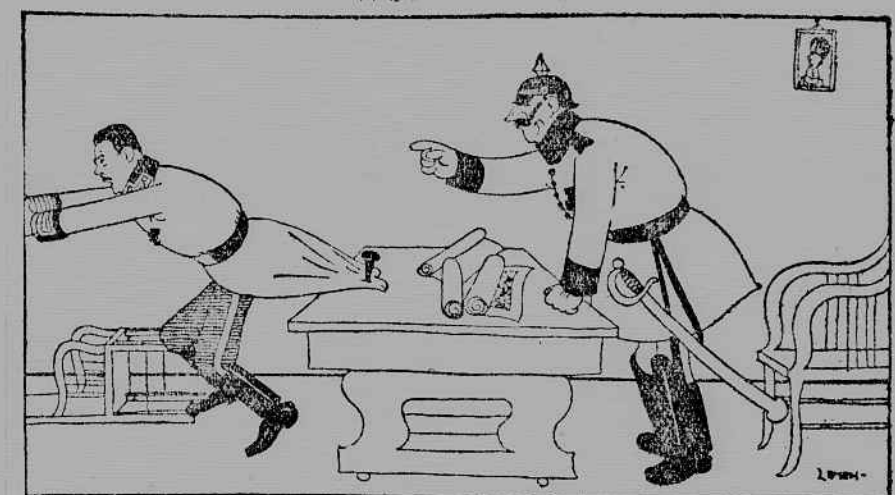
"Wilhelm has sold Karl nothing for something, just as he sold nothing for something to Ferdinand the Bulgar and the Ca-

The Enforced Morganatic Marriage



—Baltimore Sun

The Kaiser and Charles Had a Conference This Week—Now



—St. Louis Post-Dispatch

made up partly of men who have already received military training and in many cases seen service in one or other of the European armies, and partly of Polish-American vol-

unteers of good class, eager to serve in the cause of civilization and liberation of oppressed nations, including their own.

"The Poles may rest assured that their

In Arms Against This Wolf

THE eyes of the world are on the German. It is hard for him to hide from the pitiless light.

What he has been and what he is and expects to be cannot escape revelation. Students of every kind—scientists and historians and humanists—scrutinize him to discover some key to his monstrous variation from the norm of civilization. L. P. Jacks, principal of Manchester College, Oxford, and editor of "The Hibbert Journal," writing in "Land and Water," declares that the fight with Germany is not a fight between ideas, but a fight between types of character. And the character of the German, he declares, is that of the wolf. Further:

"A friend of mine, who is a student of history, makes a point of collecting all the contemporary German portraits he can lay his hands on. He has them pasted in a book, handsomely bound, on the cover of which he has printed these words: 'The Wolf, or the War Interpreted at a Glance.' Inside is a vast collection of faces—authentic photographs of the Kaiser, his ministers, his generals, Hindenburg, Ludendorff, von Kuhlmann, von Tirpitz and the rest—all the representatives of the military party. In another group are the various

professors and divines who have declared their militarist proclivities. In another are their opponents. And, last, there are hundreds of prisoners of war, reproductions of photographs from the illustrated papers, to which my friend, as an expert in physiognomy, attaches a high value."

"The type which he professes to have found more or less strongly marked in the great majority of these faces is that of the wolf. To make this apparent, he has executed a well drawn wolf's head on those pages where the type stands out clearest. In the Kaiser, the Crown Prince and many of the generals no one could overlook the resemblance. A few of them, like the Crown Prince, appear to be men of a low order of intelligence, and one would hardly say of these that they make convincing wolves. But the great majority have the marks of exceptional intellectual power, and it is precisely in them that the lupine traits are most pronounced and unmistakable."

"Very remarkable, too, is the increasing dominance of the type with the rise in rank. Among the common soldiers the wolf face is absent fully as often as it is present. Among the junior officers one misses it only here and there. The generals reproduce it almost without exception, while in the Kaiser, of course, it comes out pur sang."

"On the whole, the collection does justice

to the alternative title my friend has inscribed on the cover—'The War Interpreted at a Glance.' You close the book with the feeling that the question has been reduced to its ultimate terms. 'Mankind,' you say, 'is in arms against this wolf.' Nor is this mere impressionism. We may use these words with the assurance that we are anticipating the verdict of history. These German militarists have justified their faces. They have won for themselves a reputation in cruelty by which they will be remembered hereafter, even though everything else should be forgotten. They have made cruelty the keyword to the human meaning of the war—the word that explains better than any other single word that could be chosen what it is that binds the Allied nations into a unitary force, what they are fighting to establish and what they are fighting to overthrow."

Whaling

NORWEGIAN capitalists have made arrangements to revive the whaling industry in Newfoundland waters. In addition to shipping the meat to the United States, and possibly elsewhere, they purpose to convert the fat into margarine.—The Westminster Gazette.

cause is not likely to be neglected by this country. The superb courage and patriotism of the recent victims of an Austrian court martial appeal profoundly to our sympathies, and although the two Kaisers may barter away the Polish throne, each in an attempt to save his own, the bargain will never be ratified. Poland will once again be united and free, thanks to the steadfast endurance of her peoples wherever they may be, and to the determination of the Allies."

Something the Hun Has Still to Learn

THE blundering German psychology, which misjudged the temper of the Belgians, the British and the Americans, is now going astray on how best to combat an economic boycott, in the opinion of "The Hartford Times," which comments:

"It is frequently said that the Germans 'did not understand the psychology of the rest of the world and that we did not understand their psychology.' This is only a scientific way of saying that neither could foresee how the other would act under certain circumstances, and may be freely admitted as true. Had the Germans known that their conduct would bring them into their present position and rouse a worldwide armed resistance, they would have hesitated before invading Belgium. As for us, we would never believe that men calling themselves civilized could be guilty of the causeless aggression and acts of cruelty and brutality that mark the acts of German soldiers since August, 1914. Now we understand what German human nature is capable of, though we tend to ascribe the blame to the system or the military class alone. But the Germans do not seem to have learned anything about a free people. They are much worried over the prospect of an 'economic boycott' or refusal by the Allies to trade with them on equal terms. This might not be good policy on the part of the Allies, since the advantages of commerce are reciprocal; but the German suggestion of the 'establishment of chambers of commerce abroad for the reestablishment of German world trade with the assistance of German consular authorities,' made by a semi-official Leipzig newspaper, shows that they are as far from comprehending the human nature of the Allies as they were when they acted deliberately acted in such a way as to bind the rest of the world in a union against them."